SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, time is very short. I will confine myself to only one supplementary. Any effort on the part of the Government to provide more employment for rural empowerment is welcome. But, Sir, the thing is that, most of the funds that the Government of India is retaining, they are formulating schemes but they are not aware of resources which are available in the State and they are trying to thrust those schemes on the State Governments. There is an absolute overlapping of the schemes, which the State Governments and the Government of India are formulating. So, my question to the Minister is: Why don't you give more funds to the States, leaving it to the discretion of the States, who know the demands of the people, who know the aspirations of the people, so that by considering the local resources available they can formulate schemes for rural development and empowerment?

श्री रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह: सभापति महोदय, इससे संबंधित जितनी राशि है, वह राज्य सरकारों को दी जाती है। हमारे यहां, केन्द्र के पास कौन सी एजेंसी है जिसके द्वारा हम पैसे खर्च करें? सारे पैसे राज्य सरकारों को दिए जाते हैं। कुछ जो employment wages के पैसे हैं और इंदिरा आवास के पैसे हैं, वे directly DRDO को जाते हैं और 15 दिनों के अंदर पंचायती राज को जाते हैं। ये दोनों योजनाएं पंचायती राज के मार्फत लागू होती हैं और बाकी DRDO के माध्यम से लागू होती हैं। केन्द्र सरकार से जो भी पैसे बेकारी मिटाने वाली योजनाओं के लिए दिए जाते हैं, जैसे स्वर्ण जयंती ग्रामीण स्वरोजगार योजना है, वह राशि भी DRDO में जाती है और उस राशि को वहां ट्रेनिंग में, बैंक से लिंक कराने में, स्वयं सहायता समूह बनाने में, ऋण प्रदान करने में इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इस तरह से बेकारी हटाने के लिए और productive employment लाने के लिए यह सारी राशि इस्तेमाल की जाती है, राज्य सरकारों पर कुछ थोपा नहीं जाता है।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, my question is, why do you formulate the schemes while sitting in Delhi. You leave it to the discretion of the States. They will formulate according to the needs of the people and according to the resources available. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: My request is that Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Internal security

*303. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what measures on the ground have Government taken to track the reported cooperation among domestic extremist groups in various States and the external groups in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal;

(b) whether Government have clear-cut policy to deal with such matters endangering country's internal security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government remains committed to effectively combat the threat of terrorism including its external dimensions.

The Government has taken various measures such as strengthening the border management, gearing up of the intelligence machinery, close coordination between different agencies of the Centre and the State Governments and neutralizing plans of terrorists so as to deal with various aspects of terrorism.

Besides, the Government has put in place bilateral mechanisms with a number of countries including the neighbouring ones to discuss security and terrorism related issues.

Abductions by ULFA

*307. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons reported to have been abducted by the members of United Liberation Front of Assam during the last two years;

(b) how many of them have been freed/killed during that period; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a few NRIs are still in the custody of the United Liberation Front and if so, the details thereof and steps taken for their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of Assam has reported that 21 persons were kidnapped by the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) during the last 2 years (between 1.1.2003 to 16.12.2004). Out of 21 kidnapped persons 16 persons were either rescued or released by the ULFA and 5 persons were killed by them. As on 16.12.2004, no Non-Resident Indian (NRI) was reported in the custody of ULFA.